

REMARKS

The courtesies extended to the undersigned by Examiner David Banh and by Primary Examiner Dan Colilla, during the interview held on October 9, 2008, are acknowledged and appreciated. As discussed during that interview, and as indicated on the Interview Summary, it is believed that the claims now pending in the subject application are patentable over the prior art cited and relied on for the reasons to be discussed subsequently. Since the Examiner indicated that additional searching is required, there is being filed concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The filing of this RCE will allow the Examiner to conduct the additional searching that is believed to be required. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

As was discussed with Examiner Banh at the start of the interview, the assignee of the subject application is a large company whose principal business is the manufacture and sale of large printing presses, such as would be usable to print a large metropolitan newspaper, such as the Washington Post. Such a machine may stand three stories high and may extend for several hundred feet. As will be appreciated, such a machine requires a large capital outlay. It is understandable that its owners want it to be kept busy.

The printing of a newspaper typically takes place at night so that the paper can be distributed in the morning. During the day, the printing press may be underutilized. In an effort to provide better utilization of the press, it may be used, in off-peak times, to print non-time-critical materials. The various Sunday supplements for the Washington Post are an example of such non-time-sensitive materials.

When the printing press is operating to produce a newspaper for immediate distribution, the paper web is printed, longitudinally slit, formed, cut transversely, folded and assembled. During non-time-critical operation, the printed web may be rerolled or rewound. This allows storage of the printed materials in a compact form and also allows easier transport of these printed, rewound materials to remote locations, such as satellite plants, where they can be assembled into sections and can be distributed with the freshly printed, time sensitive portion of the newspaper.

In Fig. 1 of the subject application, there is shown a printing press assembly that is usable to form the printed, rewound rolls of paper. This printing press is not a part of the subject invention but is depicted and described to provide background information. As seen in Fig. 1, rolls 02 of paper are pulled off an unreeling device 01 and are printed by a plurality of print units, generally at 07. The now printed webs of material can be dried in a web dryer 08, if necessary, and are then directed to a reeling device 11. The result of this printing operation, which can be done at very high speed, is the production of rolls 12 of finished, printed webs. Since the longitudinal slitting, assembling, forming transverse cutting and folding operations are not performed on these finished rolls 12 at this time, the web-fed printing press shown in Fig. 1 can be operated at a higher rate of speed than would be the case if the printed webs were to be immediately assembled into finished newspapers.

Referring now to Fig. 2 of the subject application, and as discussed in the Substitute Specification, as filed and as amended, and as recited in currently amended claim 25, as well as in previously presented claim 25, the subject invention is directed to a processing device for a web-fed printing press. It is not directed to a web-fed printing

press per se. The processing device includes at least first and second unreeling devices 13a and 13b, as seen at the left of Fig. 2. Those unreeling drives are usable to support and to unwind the previously imprinted and rewound webs of material that are depicted at 12a and 12b. These are the rolls identified at 12 in Fig. 1.

Each of the unreeling drives 13a and 13b is driven by a separate position-controlled electric drive mechanism. As is understood in the art, such a position-controlled electric drive motor can be controlled so that the position of the reel of material that it supports can be very accurately regulated. These motors typically sense degrees of rotation and can very accurately control the rotational position of the supported reel.

A control device is adapted to control each of these separate position-controlled electric drive mechanisms. Two such control devices are depicted at 20a and 20b. It will be understood that a single control device could also be used to control both of the at least first and second separate position-controlled electric drive mechanisms. The cooperation of the two separate position-controlled electric drive mechanisms and the control devices for each such electric drive mechanism insures proper registration of the at least first and second previously imprinted and rewound webs, as those webs are unwound by the first and second unreeling device. These previously imprinted and now unwound webs are depicted at 16a and 16b in Fig. 2.

During the interview, it was pointed out to Examiner Banh that the purpose of the separate position-controlled drive mechanisms and the control device for each was, as has been recited in claim 25 since it was initially filed, to maintain the proper registration of the several previously imprinted and rewound webs of material, as they are being

unwound by the at least first and second unreeling drives. The maintenance of this proper registration is, of course, necessary in the formation of products from the previously printed and rewound webs of material. Without the registration that is produced and maintained by the separate position-controlled electric drive mechanism for each unreeling device, and the use of the control device, the unwound webs of previously printed materials could not be assembled to form usable products.

As is also recited in claim 25, as filed, and as amended, the processing device also includes a web draw-in used for each of the unreeling drives. These are indicated at 14a and 14b in Fig. 2. The previously printed webs can be slit longitudinally, as needed, to form the appropriate finished product, by cutting device 18a and 18b. Depending on the format of the product to be formed; i.e. broadsheet or tabloid product, the respective web can be unslit, can be divided into two longitudinal partial webs or can be divided into three or more partial webs. The resultant webs and/or partial webs are run through a turning bar arrangement 21 where selected ones of the webs and/or partial webs can be shifted laterally to overlies or underlies other webs or partial webs. The so assembled webs and/or partial webs are then formed by the formers 24 and 26 and are then transversely folded and cut by the folders 22 and 23.

In the Final Office Action of July 14, 2008 in the subject U.S. patent application, the Examiner indicated that claims 25 and 36 were being rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 6,827,012 to Palmatier in view of U.S. published patent application 2004/0108403 to Ueyama and further in view of U.S. patent No. 6,220,157 to Delwiche. It was asserted that Palmatier teaches the provision of unreeling devices, longitudinal web cutting devices, a former, a folder and a

transverse cutting device. It was admitted that Palmatier does not teach an electric drive mechanism, a control device, a draw-in device or a turning bar. The secondary reference to Ueyama was cited as showing an unreeling device, a control device for the electric drive and a draw-in unit. It was concluded that the teachings of Ueyama could be combined with those of Palmatier to render obvious the processing device recited in claim 25. It was asserted that the unreeling device of Palmatier needs to be driven by motors. That assertion, which is clearly correct, does not render the subject matter of claim 25 obvious over the Palmatier and Ueyama references, as acknowledged in the Interview Summary.

As discussed with Examiners Banh and Colilla, the Palmatier device is relevant to the subject invention, at least to the extent that it shows a rereeling device for a printed web, at the left of Fig. 1, and a roll unreeling device, at the right of Fig. 1. The unreeling device uses roll unreeling devices 21 to direct materials to folders 22, 23 and 24 in the assembly device 20. The result is the production of signatures 122, 123 and 124.

There is no discussion in the Palmatier reference of the issue of registration. At best, Palmatier discusses, at Column 4, lines 21-26, the use of a processor to store, in a database, the location of different individual images on each specific roll. This is done so that when the printed products are unwound, the individual images can be assembled, as desired. This does not constitute a discussion of registration but rather appears to be a discussion of the use of the correct rolls of material. Essentially, the Palmatier reference is silent with respect to any issues of registration.

The secondary reference to Ueyama is directed to a rewinding device. It appears that there is an error in the specification of this secondary reference, at paragraph 004, midway through the paragraph, where a reference to Fig. 2 is believed to be incorrect and should be a reference to Fig. 1. As seen in Fig. 1, an unwind roll Ro is provided with a brake 31. A pair of take-off rollers 20 and 30 pull a wide web W off the unwind roll Ro. That wide web W is then slit longitudinally by a slitter blade 4 and is rolled onto a wind-up roll R1. A winding motor M, drives the wind-up roll R. A tension in the unwinding web W is controlled by a control amplifier 32. This is done by matching a variable tension in the web, as detected by a tension detector 35, with a definite unwinding tension supplied by the tension setting unit 34. In response to a detected difference in tension, the brake 31 is modulated.

There is no discussion in Ueyama of a position controlled electric motor for each of several unreeling drives. At best, Ueyama teaches the use of a brake controller so that a suitable web tension will be maintained. If the teachings of the Ueyama reference were to be combined with the teachings of the Palmatier reference, the result would not be the same as, or even similar to the processing device recited in claim 25, as initially filed, and as amended during the prosecution of the subject application.

The secondary Delwiche reference is cited as showing a turning bar. Such devices are generally well known in the art and are usable to assemble webs and partial webs from several sources prior to the formation of a printed product. The addition of the Delwiche reference to the Palmatier and Ueyama references does not provide any of the teachings of claim 25 with respect to the use of separate position-controlled electric drive mechanisms for each of the unreeling devices and a control device

adapted to control each of those separate position-controlled electric drive mechanisms to insure the maintenance of proper registration of the at least first and second previously imprinted and rewound webs of material, as those webs of material are unwound by the first and second unreeling devices.

As was discussed with Examiner Banh and Colilla during the interview held on October 9, 2008, the recitations in claim 25 of the separate position-controlled electric drive motors for each of the unreeling drives, and the provision of a control device for control of the electric drive mechanisms to maintain registration has been present since the claim was originally filed. The prior art cited in the first Office Action was directed to a printing press, not to a processing device. The prior art Palmatier reference is directed to a processing device but has no teaching or discussion of maintenance of web registration. The secondary references do not provide relevant teachings in this regard. While claim 25 has been amended to clarify the invention, and to further define the use of the processing device, the basic, believed new and unique aspects of the invention had not changed.

The several dependent claims all depend from believed allowable, independent claim 25. Since that claim was indicated, in the Interview Summary, as being patentable over the prior art of record, these several dependent claims are also believed to now be allowable. The secondary references cited and relied on in the rejections of these claims do not supply the teachings that are missing from the Palmatier and Ueyama references.

During a review of the Substitute Specification, two minor errors were noted in paragraph 021. These have been corrected in the present Second Amendment. These minor changes do not constitute any new matter. Their entry is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

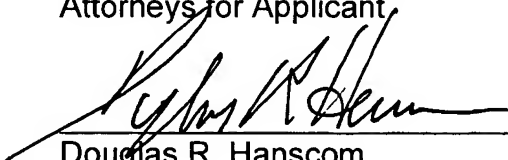
The Substitute Specification has been amended to correct two minor errors. These corrections do not constitute any new matter. Claim 25 has again been amended and, as indicated on the Interview Summary, is believed to not be taught by the prior art cited and relied on. A Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently to afford the Examiner an opportunity to conduct additional searching.

It is believed that the claims now pending in the subject application are patentable over the prior art cited and relied on. Allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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